

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A laser light output apparatus comprising:
 - a semiconductor laser which has a suitable operating temperature;
 - 5 a driving section which supplies a driving current to the semiconductor laser;
 - a temperature sensing section which senses the temperature of the semiconductor laser;
 - 10 an electronic temperature control section which controls the temperature of the semiconductor laser to the suitable operating temperature on the basis of the temperature sensed by the temperature sensing section in a state where at least the semiconductor laser is being driven; and
 - 15 a driving current control section which sets the driving current to an initial value smaller than a steady value at the suitable operating temperature at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor laser and changes the driving current to the steady value as the temperature of the semiconductor laser changes to the suitable operating temperature under the control of the electronic temperature control section.
2. A laser light output apparatus comprising:
 - a semiconductor laser which has a suitable operating temperature;
 - 25 a driving section which supplies a driving current to the semiconductor laser;

a temperature sensing section which senses the temperature of the semiconductor laser;

5 an electronic temperature control section which controls the temperature of the semiconductor laser to the suitable operating temperature on the basis of the temperature sensed by the temperature sensing section in a state where at least the semiconductor laser is being driven; and

10 a driving current control section which sets the driving current to an initial value smaller than a steady value at the suitable operating temperature at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor laser and changes the driving current to the steady value as time elapses since the start time of the 15 driving.

3. The laser light output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving current control section determines the initial value according to the temperature sensed by the temperature sensing section 20 at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor laser and changes the driving current according to the temperature sensed by the temperature sensing section.

4. The laser light output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the initial value is a threshold 25 current which causes the semiconductor laser to start laser oscillation.

5. The laser light output apparatus according to

claim 2, wherein the initial value is a threshold current which causes the semiconductor laser to start laser oscillation.

6. The laser light output apparatus according to
5 claim 1, further comprising:

a displaying section which, when the driving current is smaller than the steady value, displays the state.

7. The laser light output apparatus according to
10 claim 2, further comprising:

a displaying section which, when the driving current is smaller than the steady value, displays the state.

8. The laser light output apparatus according to
15 claim 1, further comprising:

a continuing section which, when the driving of the semiconductor laser is stopped, causes the electronic temperature control section to continue a temperature control operation for a specific duration
20 since the stop time of the driving.

9. The laser light output apparatus according to
claim 2, further comprising:

a continuing section which, when the driving of the semiconductor laser is stopped, causes the electronic temperature control section to continue a temperature control operation for a specific duration
25 since the stop time of the driving.

10. An image display apparatus comprising:

a display section;

a light source section which generates and outputs

a plurality of laser beams differing in wavelength; and

5 a projection section which processes each of said

plurality of laser beams on the basis of a video signal

and projects the resulting signal onto the display

section, wherein

the light source section includes

10 a plurality of laser light output sections which

generate and output the laser beams separately, and

a balance keeping section which maintains constant

the intensity balance between the laser beams outputted

from the laser light output sections, each of said

15 plurality of laser light output sections including

a semiconductor laser which has a suitable

operating temperature;

a driving section which supplies a driving

current to the semiconductor laser;

20 a temperature sensing section which senses

the temperature of the semiconductor laser;

an electronic temperature control section

which controls the temperature of the semiconductor

laser to the suitable operating temperature on the

25 basis of the temperature sensed by the temperature

sensing section in a state where at least the

semiconductor laser is being driven; and

a driving current control section which sets the driving current to an initial value smaller than a steady value at the suitable operating temperature at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor
5 laser and changes the driving current to the steady value as the temperature of the semiconductor laser changes to the suitable operating temperature under the control of the electronic temperature control section.

10 11. An image display apparatus comprising:
a display section;
a light source section which generates and outputs a plurality of laser beams differing in wavelength; and
a projection section which processes each of said plurality of laser beams on the basis of a video signal
15 and projects the resulting signal onto the display section, wherein
the light source section includes
a plurality of laser light output sections which generate and output the laser beams separately, and
a balance keeping section which maintains constant the intensity balance between the laser beams outputted from the laser light output sections, each of said plurality of laser light output sections including
20 a semiconductor laser which has a suitable
operating temperature;
a driving section which supplies a driving current to the semiconductor laser;

a temperature sensing section which senses the temperature of the semiconductor laser;

5 an electronic temperature control section which controls the temperature of the semiconductor laser to the suitable operating temperature on the basis of the temperature sensed by the temperature sensing section in a state where at least the semiconductor laser is being driven; and

10 a driving current control section which sets the driving current to an initial value smaller than a steady value at the suitable operating temperature at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor laser and changes the driving current to the steady value as time elapses since the start time of the 15 driving.

12. The image display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein in each of said plurality of laser light output sections,

20 the driving current control section determines the initial value according to the temperature sensed by the temperature sensing section at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor laser and changes the driving current according to the temperature sensed by the temperature sensing section, and

25 the balance keeping section, when the driving current control section makes the driving current of the semiconductor laser lower than the steady value in

at least one of said plurality of laser light output sections, forces the driving currents of the semiconductor lasers of all of the other laser light output sections to decrease.

5 13. The image display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein in each of said plurality of laser light output sections,

the initial value is a threshold current which causes the semiconductor laser to start laser oscillation.

10 14. The image display apparatus according to claim 11, wherein in each of said plurality of laser light output sections,

the initial value is a threshold current which causes the semiconductor laser to start laser oscillation.

15 15. A driving control method for a semiconductor laser with a suitable operating temperature, comprising:

20 a driving current setting step of setting a driving current for driving the semiconductor laser to an initial value smaller than a steady value at the suitable operating temperature at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor laser;

25 a temperature control step of controlling the temperature of the semiconductor laser to the suitable operating temperature; and

a driving current changing step of changing the driving current to the steady value as the temperature of the semiconductor laser changes to the suitable operating temperature in the temperature control step.

5 16. A driving control method for a semiconductor laser with a suitable operating temperature, comprising:

10 a driving current setting step of setting a driving current for driving the semiconductor laser to an initial value smaller than a steady value at the suitable operating temperature at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor laser; and

15 a driving current changing step of changing the driving current to the steady value as time elapses since the start time of the driving.

17. The driving method according to claim 15, further comprising a temperature sensing step of sensing the temperature of the semiconductor laser, wherein

20 the driving current setting step is a step of determining the initial value according to the temperature sensed in the temperature sensing step at the start time of the driving of the semiconductor laser, and

25 the driving current changing step is a step of changing the driving current according to the temperature sensed in the temperature sensing step.

18. The driving method according to claim 15,
wherein the driving current setting step sets the
initial value as a threshold current which causes the
semiconductor laser to start laser oscillation.

5 19. The driving method according to claim 16,
wherein the driving current setting step sets the
initial value as a threshold current which causes the
semiconductor laser to start laser oscillation.